



Department of Fish and Game
Office of Spill Prevention and Response

What is OSPR?

Under the authority of the Lempert Keene-Seastrand Oil Spill Prevention and Response Act (Act), the Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) opened in 1991. OSPR, part of the California Department of Fish and Game, is responsible for oil spill prevention, response and natural resource restoration in California's marine environment and inland waterways. The creation of OSPR was initiated after two significant events: 1) The 1989 *Exxon Valdez* spill, which released approximately 11 million gallons of crude oil into the ocean near Alaska; and 2) the 1990 *American Trader* spill, which released approximately 300,000 gallons of crude oil into the ocean near Huntington Beach in southern California. The Lempert Keene-Seastrand Act established the OSPR Administrator, who is appointed by the Governor to implement the provisions of the Act.

The following are key responsibilities of OSPR:

- Ensuring vessels and facilities demonstrate financial responsibility in case of a spill
- Ensuring vessels and facilities have an Oil Spill Contingency Plan
- Monitoring oil transfers over or near marine waters
- Oversight of tug escorts for oil tank vessels coming into California ports
- Oversight and rating of Oil Spill Response Organizations (OSROs)
- Plan and participate in drills and exercises for Contingency Plan Holders and OSROs
- Plan and participate in Coast Guard National Pollution Response Exercise Programs
- Licensing of Oil Spill Cleanup Agents for use in California Waters
- Oversight of the Oiled Wildlife Care Network (OWCN) and its advisory board
- Leading the five Harbor Safety Committees
- Co-chair the six Area Committees
- Work with Coast Guard to develop Area Contingency Plans with assistance from local governments and OSROs
- Maintaining an enforcement program that conducts investigations into oil spills and other hazardous materials incidents
- Managing oil spill response in coordination with local, state and federal agencies
- Conducting Natural Resource Damage Assessments
- Developing and monitoring restoration projects
- Chairing the State Interagency Oil Spill Committee (SIOSC)
- Administering the Oil Spill Prevention and Administration Fund
- Administering the Oil Spill Response Trust Fund
- Providing funding for oil spill research
- Identifying sensitive sites and habitats in the coastal areas and develop protection strategies